Chairman Vap called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Landis and Vap present and Commissioners Boyle excused and Rod Johnson excused at the beginning of the meeting.

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Notice was duly published March 9, 2004, on Page 7 of <u>The Daily Record</u> that the regular public meeting of the Commissioners of the Nebraska Public Service Commission would be held March 16, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln.

Attention was called to the following proceedings:

# Tuesday, March 16, 2004:

- 1:30 Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln.
- B-1277 Brian L. Mills, d/b/a Fantasy Limousine, Omaha. Commissioner Boyle chairing.
- B-1549 Blaine Rentals, Inc., dba Panhandle Runaround, Chadron. Commissioner Vap chairing.
- B-1566 R & J Limo Services, Inc., Cozad. Commissioner Vap chairing.

## Wednesday, March 17, 2004:

- C-3099 Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln.
- PI-77 The Commission, on its own motion, seeking comment on the 10:00 request by United Way of the Midlands to be assigned the use of "211" in the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County for access to First Call for Help (FCFH), a comprehensive information and referral service. Commissioner Frank Landis chairing.

## Monday, March 22, 2004:

B-1535 Video Hearing. Commission Library, Lincoln; Nebraska State Supp. 1 Office Building, Room 207, Second Floor, 1313 Farnam Street, 10:00 Omaha; and Northeast Community College, Maclay Building, Room 122, 801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk. Guard-Rite Security Services, LLC, Norfolk, seeking to extend its authority as a common carrier of passengers by sedans and vans in open class service between points in Nebraska over irregular routes. To include the transportation of Health and Human Services clientele and their sub-contractors thereof. RESTRICTION: The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized. Commissioner Rod Johnson chairing.

### COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

FC-1316 In the Matter of Nebraska Technology Operations Center, d/b/a Kearney.net, Kearney, vs. Citizens/Frontier Communications, Kearney, alleging a billing error: Gene Hand informed the Commission that an Answer and Request to Dismiss was filed by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska on March 4, 2004. Commissioner Vap will preside as Hearing Officer for a hearing to be scheduled for a date later to be determined.

C-2932 In the Matter of NPCR, Inc., d/b/a Nextel Partners, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier that may receive universal service support: Gene Hand informed the Commission that the oral argument previously set for March 17, 2004, was continued to a date later to be determined.

C-3026 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to conduct a 9-month proceeding as contemplated by the Federal Communications Commission in its Triennial Review Order adopting new rules for network unbundling obligations: Gene Hand informed the Commission of the status of the docket which included that revised objections to discovery are to be filed on or before March 17, 2004.

C-3060 In the Matter of Startec Global Licensing Company of Potomac, Maryland, seeking authority to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to transact the business of a reseller of interexchange telecommunications services and for approval of its initial tariff: Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order to withdraw the application at applicant's request. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.

C-3095 In the Matter of the Qwest Corporation, Denver, Colorado, seeking arbitration to resolve issues relating to interconnection rates, terms, conditions and related arrangements with AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., and TCG Omaha, Denver, Colorado: Gene Hand informed the Commission that the parties had agreed on John Kern of Kern & Associates, Inc. to serve as the arbitrator due to the fact that Mr. Lamancusa's current commitments won't allow him time to serve as arbitrator.

### COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

- C-3096 In the Matter of Great Plains Communications, Inc., Blair, seeking suspension or modification of the Federal Communications Commission Requirement to Implement Wireline-Wireless Number Portability, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 251(f)(2): Motion made by Commissioner Frank Landis, seconded by Commissioner Lowell Johnson to enter an order setting a planning conference for March 22, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln. The call-in number is 402-472-6899. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting. Gene Hand informed the Commission that Sprint had filed a Motion for Rehearing and/or Clarification.
- C-3100 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to determine the surcharge for the Statewide Telecommunications Relay System to be effective July 1, 2004: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson to enter an order setting the surcharge. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- C-3101 In the Matter of Teleglobe America, Inc., Reston, Virginia, seeking authority to implement internal corporate changes:

  Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- C-3102 In the Matter of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska, d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nebraska, Mound, Minnesota, seeking approval of its interconnection and traffic interchange agreement for cellular and other 2-way mobile radio services with Alltel Communications, Little Rock, Arkansas: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- C-3103 In the Matter of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska, d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nebraska, Mound, Minnesota, seeking approval of its agreement for local interconnection with Sprint Communications, L.P., Overland Park, Kansas: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.

#### COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

- C-3104 In the Matter of Southeast Nebraska Telephone Co., Falls City, seeking approval of its wireless interconnection and reciprocal compensation agreement with WWC License, L.L.C., Bellevue, Washington. Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- C-3105 In the Matter of Great Plains Communications, Inc., Blair, seeking to revise depreciation rates: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- C-3106 In the Matter of Qwest Corporation, Denver, Colorado, seeking approval of its triennial review order amendment to an interconnection agreement with Houlton Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Guaranteed Phone Service, Council Bluffs, Iowa, previously granted in Docket C-2917: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- C-3107 In the Matter of Qwest Corporation, Denver, Colorado, seeking approval of its Qwest DSL (with discount) provided with UNE-P Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement, previously granted in Docket C-2936: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- C-3153 In the Matter of Dalton Telephone Company, Inc., and Elsie C-3154 Communications, Inc., Clearwater, Kansas, for suspension or modification of the Federal Communications Commission Requirement to Implement Wireline-Wireless Number Portability, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 251(f)(2). Gene Hand informed the Commission that applications were received from Dalton Telephone Company and Elsie Communications.

## Engineering Division

- E-2030 In the Matter of Nebraska Public Power District, Columbus, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain an electric transmission line in Brown and Cherry Counties: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- E-2031 In the Matter of the Norris Public Power District,
  Beatrice, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain an electric transmission line in Lancaster County: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- E-2032 In the Matter of the Northwest Rural Public Power District, Hay Springs, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain an electric transmission line in Dawes County: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- E-2033 In the Matter of the Northwest Rural Public Power District, Hay Springs, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain an electric transmission line in Sheridan County: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.
- E-2034 In the Matter of the Application of the Northwest Rural Public Power District, Hay Springs, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain an electric transmission line in Sheridan County: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.

Gene Hand presented the Commission with an article from Governing magazine about internet access through electrical power lines.

### COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

Gene Hand informed the Commission that the staff has a copy of the FCC's NPRM in WC Docket No. 04-36 regarding IP-Enabled Services (VoIP) which was released on March 10, 2004, seeking comments 60 days after the notice is published in the Federal Register and reply comments 90 days after publication.

Gene Hand provided the Commission with a NARUC winter meeting report.

#### UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

NUSF-25/ In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking PO #11 seeking guidelines for the purpose of certifying the use of federal universal service support: Motion made by Commissioner Frank Landis, seconded by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, to certify federal USF support for Qwest and Alltel. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.

Jeff Pursley reported on Late-Filed Carrier Remittances. The Commission approved levying a late-fee against Budget Phone, Inc. and issuing a complaint against IDT America, Corporation.

Jeff Pursley presented a draft letter addressed to the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) regarding the approval for federal universal service support payments to Western Wireless. The Commission approved the letter with Commissioner Vap's signature.

## E911 DEPARTMENT

WSP-014 In the Matter of Indigo Wireless, Mansfield, Pennsylvania, Seeking approval of request for funding for Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter an order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.

### NATURAL GAS AND WATER DEPARTMENT

NG-0001 NG-0002	In the Matter of Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks (Aquila), Omaha, seeking a general rate increase for		
NG-0003	Aquila's Rate Area One, Rate Area Two and Rate Area Three:		
	Laura Demman informed the Commission that the Public Advo-		
cate and Cornerstone filed comments to Aquila's proposed refund plan			
and reply comments were filed by Aquila. Motion made by Commissioner			
Frank Landis, seconded by Commissioner Lowell Johnson to enter an			
assessment order for GDS-006. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell			
Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner			
Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.			

#### NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

NG-0018 In the Matter of U.S. Energy Services, Inc., Wayzata,
Minnesota, seeking authority as a Competitive Natural Gas
Provider in the state of Nebraska: Motion made by Commissioner Rod
Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis to enter a Protective
Order. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson,
Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not
Voting.

FC-1317 In the Matter of Sheren Dev-Winters, Lincoln vs. Aquila, Inc, d/b/a Aquila Networks, alleging unjust and unreasonable treatment by Aquila: Laura Demman informed the Commission that the formal complaint was received March 11, 2004, Certificate of Service was mailed March 12, 2004, and Aquila's answer date will be March 30, 2004, if a Statement of Satisfaction is not filed.

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Andy Pollock reported on pending legislation.

## GRAIN WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT

The following shortages were discussed:

- GW-87 Corn and oats at Northeast Cooperative, Wakefield. GW-1761 Soybeans at Morrill Grain Co., Inc., Creighton.
- GW-447 In the Matter of Cooperative Mutual Insurance Company seeking cancellation of its Continous Public Grain Warehouse Bond No. 1012 in the amount of \$500,000.00, issued on behalf of Tri Valley Cooperative, St. Edward, Fullerton, Genoa, Monroe, and Platte Center. Application was granted effective September 1, 2003.
- GW-823 In the Matter of Sutton Cooperative Grain Company, Sutton, seeking to issue a duplicate Negotiable Grain Warehouse Receipt to replace Receipt No. B671094 which was lost: Application was granted.

### GRAIN WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

GW-1097 In the Matter of Cooperative Mutual Insurance Company seeking cancellation of its continuous Public Grain Warehouse Bond No. GW3 in the amount of \$500,000.00, issued on behalf of Agland Coop, Oakland, Craig, Uehling, Tekamah, Fremont, Bancroft, Lyons, Walthill, Hooper, Snyder, Nickerson, North Bend, Scribner, and Winslow: Application was granted effective September 1, 2003.

GW-1110 In the Matter of Employers Mutual Casualty Company seeking cancellation of its continuous Public Grain Warehouse Bond No. T21-33-40 in the amount of \$108,100.00, issued on behalf of Pickrell Co-Operative Elevator Association, Pickrell: Application was granted effective December 1, 2003.

GW-1680 In the Matter of AMCO Insurance Company, seeking cancellation of its Continuous Public Grain Warehouse Bond No.
BBA652507 in the amount of \$317,300.00, issued on behalf of Sargent
Feed and Grain Co., Sargent: Application was granted effective
February 15, 2004.

### Grain Dealer Division

An order was entered granting a Grain Dealer license, subject to the fulfillment of all statutory requirements for the license period ending June 30, 2004:

GD-599 Agri Co-op, Holdrege

\$ 35,000

An order was entered granting a Grain Dealer License to the applicant, subject to the fulfillment of all statutory requirements for the license period ending December 31, 2004:

GD- 2867 Tinsley Grain, Inc., Neligh

SECURITY
\$ 59,000

GD-2822 In the Matter of All Points Cooperative, Lexington, seeking cancellation of its Grain Dealer License: Application was granted effective March 10, 2004.

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Mark Luttich invited the Commissioners to attend the Building Safety Week Proclamation signing by Governor Johanns on Wednesday, March 17, 2004.

Mark Luttich discussed the Dutchmen recreational vehicle furnace recall status.

### HOUSING DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

Mark Luttich distributed a proposed letter to the Commission addressed to HUD making comment to Federal Register Docket No. FR-4868-P-01.

#### TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

- B-1483 In the Matter of Ardell M. Eichman, York, seeking approval to waive the age qualification for driving a motor vehicle:

  Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner

  Frank Landis. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting. The approval was granted and the rule waived.
- B-1498 In the Matter of Running Horse Enterprises, LLC, Hastings, dismissing the suspension of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued in Application B-1498: Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis.

  Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting. The suspension was dismissed and B-1498 reinstated.
- B-1597 In the Matter of Caring Network, Inc., Omaha, seeking to Supp. 1 extend its authority as a common carrier of passengers in open class service by vans between points in Cass County and between points in Cass County and points in Douglas and Sarpy counties over irregular routes. To include the transportation of Health and Human Services clientele and their subcontractors thereof. RESTRICTION: The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized: Motion made by Commissioner Frank Landis, seconded by Commissioner Lowell Johnson. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting. The application was granted.
- M-12916 In the Matter of Fitch Trucking, Inc., Bennet, seeking revocation and cancellation of the common carrier authority in Permit Number M-12916: Motion made by Commissioner Frank Landis, seconded by Commissioner Lowell Johnson. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting. The application for revocation was granted and the authority in M-12916 was revoked.
- B-1637 In the Matter of Patrick J. Oakes, dba CEO Limousine Company, Lincoln, seeking authority as a common carrier of passengers by limousine between points in Lancaster County and between points in Lancaster County on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points within a 75-mile radius of Lancaster County over irregular routes: A hearing was set for May 12, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln. Commissioner Landis will preside as Hearing Officer.

### TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

### Rate Division

MR-930 In the Matter of Movers and Warehouse Division, Nebraska Motor Carriers Association, Lincoln, seeking authority to establish a fuel surcharge in Nebraska Official Household Goods Tariff 7-F: The fuel surcharge was lowered to 18 cents per mile and the taxi surcharge retained at 35 cents per trip.

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Commission approved the following invoices. Motion made by Commissioner Lowell Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Landis Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.

DAS - IMServices	\$ 547.72
DAS-Materiel - Office Supplies	1,121.12
Kelly Services	532.00
Kelly Services	700.00
Maurice Gene Hand	892.13
Anne Boyle	996.59
Gerald Vap	1,414.45

The Commission recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m. with Commissioners Landis, Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson and Vap present and Commissioner Boyle excused.

The Commission set the following meeting dates for the second quarter, 2004: Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Lowell Johnson. Motion passed with Commis-Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis, Jerry Vap voting AYE, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting. All dates below fall on Tuesdays and begin at 10 a.m., except as otherwise noted:

April 6, 13, and 27. No meeting on April 20; May 4, 11, 18 and 26 (Wednesday) June 2 (Wednesday following Memorial Day), 8, 22 and 29. No meeting on June 15

Upon agreement of all Commissioners present, authorization was granted for Mark Luttich to travel to Kansas City, Missouri, from April 25-28, 2004, to attend the National Fire Protection Association NFPA) recreational vehicle code development meeting.

Upon agreement of all Commissioners present, authorization was granted for Commissioner Anne Boyle to attend the 2004 RIITA Conference to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, on March 11, 2004.

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (Cont.)

Upon agreement of all Commissioners present, authorization was granted for Commissioner Landis to attend the 2004 Current Issues Conference to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from March 20-24, 2004.

Upon agreement of all Commissioners present, authorization was granted for Commissioner Lowell Johnson to travel to Washington, DC, from April 19-21, 2004, to attend the TRS Advisory Council Meeting with most expenses to be paid by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA).

Upon agreement of all Commissioners, authorization was granted for Tim Sandusky to travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, to attend the Federal Railroad Association (FRA) Multi Regional Conference Track Inspector Workshops from March 30 to April 2, 2004, with all expenses to be paid by the FRA.

Upon agreement of all Commissioners, authorization was granted for Jim Hames to travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, to attend the Federal Railroad Association (FRA) Multi Regional Conference Motive Power and Equipment Inspector Workshops from May 2-7, 2004, with all expenses to be paid by the FRA.

Upon agreement of all Commissioners, authorization was granted for Tim Sandusky to travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, to attend the Association of State Managers Meeting to be held during the Federal Railroad Association (FRA) Multi Regional Conference from May 2-7, 2004, with all expenses to be paid by the FRA.

Commissioner Lowell Johnson moved that the Commission go into closed session to discuss personnel and litigation issues and Commissioner Rod Johnson seconded the motion. Upon agreement of all Commissioners, the Commission went into closed session at 11:15 a.m.

Commissioner Rod Johnson moved that the Commission return to open session and Commissioner Lowell Johnson seconded the motion. Upon agreement of all Commissioners, the Commission returned to open session at 11:50~a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Landis, seconded by Commissioner Lowell Johnson to grant Andy Pollock limited authority to attempt to settle the Revolving Loan Fund litigation. Motion passed with Commissioners Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Frank Landis voting AYE, Jerry Vap voting NAY, Commissioner Anne Boyle Absent Not Voting.

The meeting adjourned at 11	:55 a.m. with Commissioners
Lowell Johnson, Rod Johnson, Landis an	d Vap present and Commissioner
Boyle excused. The next regularly sch	eduled meeting will be held on
March 23, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. with an	agenda to be available in the
office of the Executive Director at 10	:00 a.m. on March 22, 2004.
Chairman	Executive Director